

We claim:

1. A system comprising:
 - means for extracting data from a document contained on a physical or electronic media; and
 - means for routing the extracted data to at least one of a plurality of locations depending on at least one of a content of and a type of the document.
2. A system comprising:
 - means for extracting data from a document contained on a physical or electronic media; and
 - means for comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith.
3. A system comprising:
 - means for receiving a document contained on a physical or electronic media;
 - means for scanning the document and producing an electronic file representing data contained in the document;
 - means for validating the data in the electronic file;
 - means for comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith; and
 - means for routing compliant data to one or more locations based upon the content thereof.
4. The system as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising means for rejecting noncompliant data and sending a notification of the same to a predetermined address.
5. The system as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising means for converting the compliant data into a determined output file format.

6. The system as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising means for archiving the compliant data into a database.
7. The system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the document is obtained from an e-mail, a facsimile, or a file transferred by FTP.
8. The system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein in the case where the document is a facsimile, at least one dedicated inbound telephone number is provided therefor.
9. The system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the scanning means utilizes at least one of an OCR technique, an ICR technique, and an OMR technique.
10. The system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the output file format is one of ASCII text, ANSI X.12, EDIFACT, XML, EANCOM, TRADACOMS, ODETTE, and a customer-specified format.
11. The system as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the archiving means stores and indexes the data in the database so that the data may be searched for and retrieved.
12. The system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the routing means utilizes a message transport protocol selected from the list consisting of HTTP, SMTP, and FTP, or secured variants thereof.
13. The system as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising means for generating billing records.
14. The system as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising means for querying the archive database.

15. A system for processing a transaction through a plurality of stages, said system comprising:
 - means for determining information relating to the transaction at one or more of said stages; and
 - means for reporting the transaction information.
16. The system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein the information includes transaction status, further comprising means for recovering from a transaction having a status identified as failed.
17. The system as set forth in Claim 16, wherein said recovery means corrects the failed transaction, if feasible, and re-injects the corrected transaction into the transaction process.
18. The system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein such information includes one of at least origin, destination, receipt, status, delivery, page count, identification, attempt, and stage.
19. The system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said stages include one of at least document receipt, data extraction, data verification, data transformation, data delivery, and data archiving.
20. A method comprising the steps of:
 - extracting data from a document contained on a physical or electronic media; and
 - routing the extracted data to at least one of a plurality of locations depending on at least one of a content of and a type of the document.
21. A method comprising the steps of:
 - extracting data from a document contained on a physical or electronic media; and

comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith.

22. A method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a document contained on a physical or electronic media;
- scanning the document and producing an electronic file representing data contained in the document;
- validating the data in the electronic file;
- comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith; and
- routing compliant data to one or more locations based upon the content thereof.

23. A method for processing a transaction through a plurality of stages, said method comprising the steps of:

- determining information relating to the transaction at one or more of said stages; and
- reporting the transaction information.